

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 10-14 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e) and 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,547,466 to Yamaguchi; and rejects claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamaguchi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Yamaguchi does not disclose, teach or suggest an optical connector including a first housing having a first housing body portion that includes a first mounting portion "disposed only at opposing edges of the first housing body, the opposing edges being substantially parallel to a central longitudinal axis of the guide sleeve portion," as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Yamaguchi discloses an optical connector including a first housing having an optical element 8, 9, an element storing depression 38, a guide sleeve portion 35 and a first mounting portion 30, 40. Notwithstanding these assertions, Yamaguchi does not disclose a first mounting portion disposed only at opposing edges of a first housing body having a guide sleeve portion, as set forth in claim 1.

Yamaguchi discloses, in Fig. 1, an optical element modules 8, 9 (each arguably corresponding to an optical connector) each including a case 31, 33 (arguably corresponding to a first housing) having a light-emitting element (arguably corresponding to an optical element), a second projection 35 (arguably corresponding to a guide sleeve member) and lead frames 30, 32 (each arguably corresponding to a first mounting portion). See col. 4, line 48 - col. 5, line 25. As show in Fig. 1, at least four lead frames 30, 32 are disposed along a bottom surface of each case 31, 33 of the optical element modules 8, 9. Yamaguchi does not teach or

suggest that the lead frames 30, 32 are disposed only at opposing edges of each case 31, 33 that includes the second projection 35. Therefore, Yamaguchi does not teach or suggest the optical connector of claim 1, as set forth in claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, claim 1 is patentable over Yamaguchi. Claims 2, 3 and 5-9 depend from claim 1, and thus also are patentable over Yamaguchi for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

Claim 4 depends from claim 1, and thus is also patentable over Yamaguchi for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Therefore, rejoinder of claim 4 is requested upon allowance of claim 1.

Similar to claim 1, claim 10 also includes a mounting portion being disposed only at opposing edges of a housing body, the opposing edges being substantially parallel to a central longitudinal axis of a guide sleeve portion. Therefore, claim 10 is also allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Claims 11-14 depend from claim 10, and thus also are allowable for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 21, 2006

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